We need you to help fight housing discrimination.

It’s almost 40 years of the Fair Housing Act and we still have a long way to go.

Stay tuned for a series of important HUD and community events in celebration of such milestone!

In the meantime, please meet Franklin the Fair Housing Fox.

Just as McGruff the Crime Dog represents the fight against crime, Franklin, the Fair Housing Fox, will symbolize the nation’s efforts to end housing discrimination.

Designed to appeal to children and their parents, Franklin, the Fair Housing Fox, will encourage the public to “Dare to Be Fair” by promoting the message that “Fair Housing is Not an Option; It’s the Law.” Learn more about Franklin.

Help change the world, one light at a time

What’s all the buzz about green building and Energy Star®? What does it mean for your business? It can mean a lot, actually, for attracting customers and increasing the bottom line and the ability for people to buy a home, all while reducing carbon emissions, whether you set out to do so or not.

Green building represents five key components: sustainability, energy efficiency, recycled materials, indoor air quality and an overall commitment to healthy housing. From a building industry standpoint, energy efficiency can be best discussed with two words: Energy Star®.

Probably the most recognizable Energy Star® item is the spiral bulb. Every Energy Star® qualified bulb uses 75% less energy than a standard bulb, lasts up 10 times longer and can save about $30 or more in energy costs — while preventing more than 400 pounds of greenhouse gas emissions over its lifetime.

HUD, Department Of Energy and Environmental Protection Agency have worked together in supporting Energy Star® in various programs since 1995. The three agencies have created a joint website, www.energysavers.gov, as part of their Partnership for Home Energy Efficiency.

An example of this collaboration is the Change a Light Change the World Campaign, which asks every individual in America to pledge to replace one incandescent light bulb with an Energy Star qualified one. The 8th annual Campaign started on October 3, 2007.

To take the pledge visit energystar.gov/joincal. Don’t forget to indicate that HUD invited you to take the pledge by selecting “U.S. Department of HUD Miami Field Office” as your pledge driver.

2008 Housing and Community Design Programs

The Housing and Custom Residential Knowledge Community of the American Institute of Architects (AIA), in conjunction with the Office.
OF THE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, IS NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2008 HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DESIGN AWARDS PROGRAM.

These annual awards recognize the best in residential housing design, particularly in affordable housing, community-based design, participatory design, and housing accessibility.

Award recipients will have their projects publicized by HUD and in AIA's eNewsletter, AIArchitect, at www.aia.org/aiaarchitect/.

The winning designs will also be honored at the 2008 AIA National Convention in Boston, on May 15-17, 2008.

Applications are due December 14, 2007. The criteria and instructions for online submissions are located at http://www.aia.org/awp_hud.

Have you checked the Top 10?

Remodeling? Here's help for your next rehab project.

PATH - PARTNERSHIP FOR ADVANCING TECHNOLOGY IN HOUSING - HAS SCANNED THE INDUSTRY FOR THE TECHNOLOGIES WITH THE MOST PROMISE FOR MAKING OUR EXISTING HOMES MORE DURABLE, STRONGER AND MORE RESOURCE EFFICIENT.

Selected technologies have notable strengths in one or more of the following areas: quality and durability; energy efficiency; environmental performance; safety and disaster mitigation; and...
Agency, borrowers may call 1-800-569-4287.

Fair Market Rents

Need to know the Fair Market Rents for fiscal year 2008? New data was published on Monday, October 1, in the Federal Register. These are the rates used for the Housing Choice Voucher and Moderate Rehabilitation Single Room Occupancy program HUD’s Final Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 Fair Market Rents. This system provides complete documentation of the development of the final FY 2008 Fair Market Rents (FMRs) for any area of the country selected by the user.

Public Housing Authorities Old and New Property Numbers

Have you checked the new number system to identify the properties at your housing authority? A notice recently published explains all you need to know about codes and suffix and how to call each and even how to request a change in project identifications. Charts, tables, technical assistance, it is all there. Take a look at it, most likely it will help you with the transition.

Residential Market Research for Innovation

Efficiency and innovation will help to address some of today’s pressures – labor shortages, increasing material costs, pressures from natural disasters, and generally low profit margins. Though in the past, the industry has been slow in its adoption of innovation and new technology development and adoption, these challenges pose opportunities for the industry players to maintain a competitive edge. Yet understanding how to overcome the barriers of new...
agendas and registration. Technology development and adoption is important in fostering industry growth.